

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEA-01 /094 W

----- 073168

O R 311234Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8303

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IT, UR, US, UK

SUBJECT: ITALIAN NPT OBSERVATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 304229; B. MOSCOW 14368 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO CIRCULATE THE ITALIAN OBSERVATION ON THE NPT, AND HAVE IN MIND NO FURTHER ACTION OTHER THAN ORALLY INFORMING US, THE UK, AND ITALY OF THEIR DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. VAVILOV IN MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT CALLED EMBOFF DECEMBER 30 (BEFORE RECEIPT OF REF A) TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS THE ITALIAN OBSERVATION QUESTION. DURING MEETING DECEMBER 31, VAVILOV READ FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

WE REGARD THE ITALIAN OBSERVATION AS CONTRARY TO THE
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OBJECT AND AIMS OF THE (NPT). TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE

STATEMENT OF THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INSIST ON CIRCULATION OF THE OBSERVATION, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO.
END TEXT.

3. VAVILOV SAID THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE "PRIVATELY" DURING HIS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS (WHICH WE NOTE WAS OCTOBER 8). VAVILOV STATED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WILL INFORM THE BRITISH AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS OF ITS DECISION, (WE ASSUME ORALLY, AS WE WERE INFORMED), BUT WILL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION. VAVILOV VOLUNTEERED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT BEGINNING ANY FURTHER EXCHANGE OF PAPERS ON THE ISSUE MIGHT REAWAKEN THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE MATTER BY BRINGING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS WHO WERE NOT AWARE OF THE ITALIAN POSITION. WHEN EMBOFF PROTESTED THAT THE ITALIAN POSITION WAS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, VAVILOV REPLIED THAT " MANY PROBABLY HAVE NOT NOTICED IT."

4. COMMENT: ON THE SAME DAY THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT INSIST ON CIRCULATING THE OBSERVATION, THE SOVIETS TOLD US (REF B) THAT THE ITALIANS WERE IN FACT INSISTING. THE APPARENT ITALIAN CHANGE OF VIEWS MAY HAVE COME ABOUT WITH SOME HELP FROM THE SOVIETS. IN ANY CASE, BEING ABLE TO REPLY ON THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ALLOWS THE SOVIETS TO JUSTIFY THEIR PREFERENCE NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY FURTHER, POTENTIALLY AWKWARD EXCHANGES ON THE ISSUE. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0412
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaaqh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 304229, 75 MOSCOW 14368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN NPT OBSERVATIONS
TAGS: PARM, IT, UR, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006